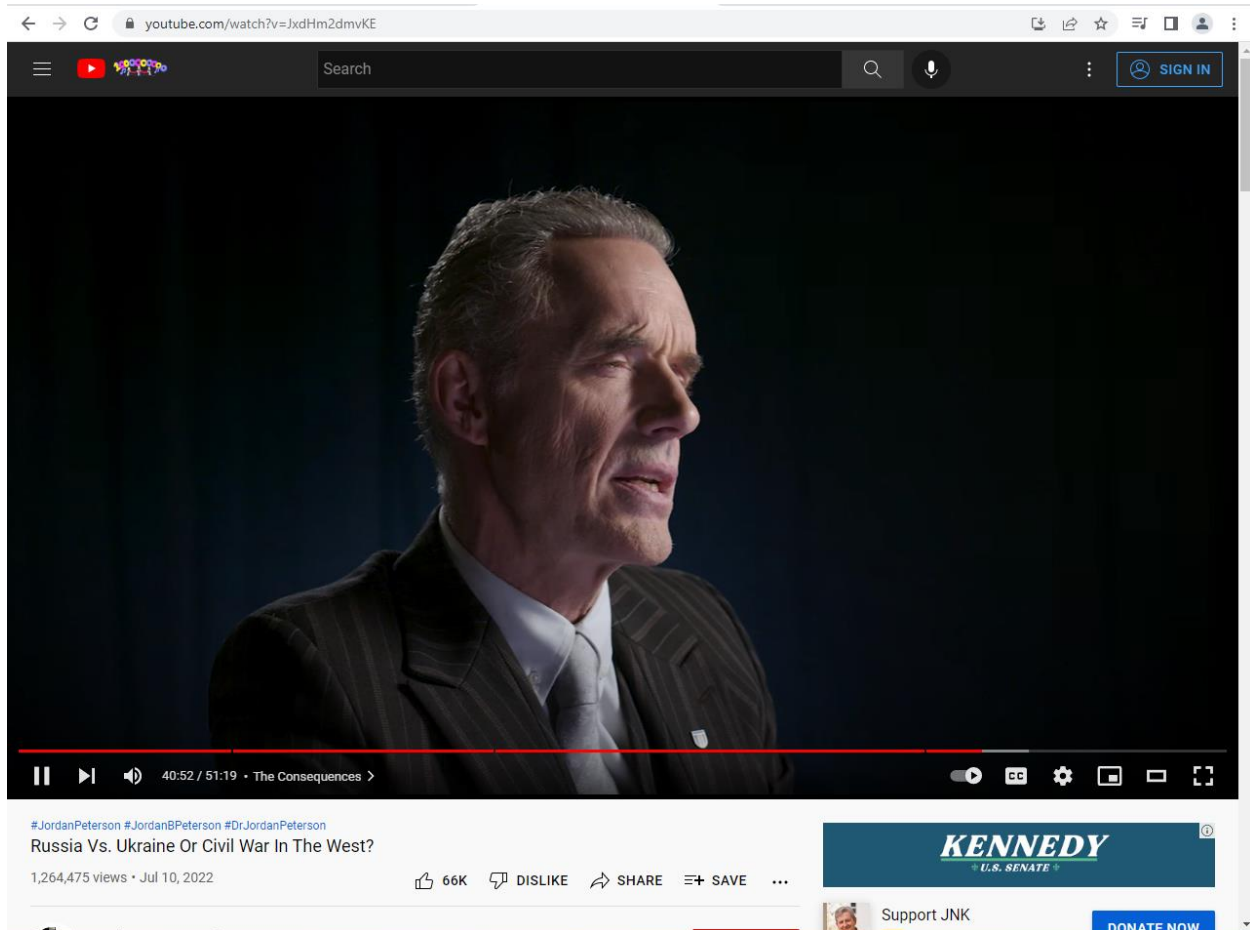


Russia Vs. Ukraine Or Civil War In The West. Dr Jordan B Peterson



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxdHm2dmvKE>

0:00

Hi everyone I want to read a piece for you today that I wrote recently over about a month

0:06

carefully assessing it with a number of experts on foreign policy it's called Russia

0:12

versus Ukraine or civil war in the west

0:19

we are now several months into the conflict with Russia I say we

0:25

because we are all pretending here in the west that the real war is between Russia and Ukraine but

0:30

not nod wink wink if we clandestinely in some sense provide full support to

0:36

Ukraine maybe the Russians foolish and backward as they are won't notice and we can simultaneously

0:43

pretend that we aren't flirting with the prospect of a long arduous and

0:48

inconceivably destructive war I want to say at the outset

0:54

that I think what Putin has done is unconscionable god only knows what the impact will be as all four of the

1:01

horsemen of the apocalypse are on the march again I also think that the collusion of the

1:07

leadership of the Russian orthodox church is even more unforgivable

1:14

be that as it may I also believe that the attempt to deeply understand the motive forces for this war

1:21

as it is very difficult to set things right let alone avoid a similar future catastrophe or even to stop this

1:27

conflict from spreading in the absence of such understanding

1:32

I have spoken publicly on my YouTube channel and podcast with American foreign policy expert Frederick kagan

1:40

who was recommended to me by some of my conservative associates in the u.s people with extensive political

1:46

experience and simultaneously knowledge about foreign policy Kegan

1:51

is rather hawkish in his outlook and reputation and was criticized for this as I was for

1:58

hosting him in the social media comments section accompanying my YouTube channel

2:04

our joint episodes by the way have been viewed or listened to by at least three million people i'm saying this

2:11

just to provide evidence that these discussions have had some impact in the broad public sphere

2:18

Dr Kegan essentially put forward the thesis that Vladimir Putin is a prototypical authoritarian

2:26

and that Russia's foray into Ukraine might be properly viewed as an expression of the imperial expansionism

2:33

that characterized the soviet union so this is cold war round two

2:39

accompanying this view is the interpretation of Putin as a thug in the hitlerian mold carrying a chip on

2:47

his shoulder interested primarily in self-aggrandizement and capitalizing on Russian patriotism

2:53

and an associated populist appeal to fortify his pretensions to empire and

2:59

desire for an unlimited extension of personal power this perspective which appears to

3:05

characterize what might be called the western patriotic response to the Russian incursion has its very real

3:11

justifications it appears part of uniting in response to an enemy

3:17

part of justifying what is necessarily a binary decision process are we at war or

3:23

not if yes then the question arises is the enemy bad

3:29

by definition otherwise the war is unpardonable and if we believe that to be the case we will enter the fray

3:36

demoralized and compromise our chances of victory

3:41

but one of the primary justifications for a war perhaps is that we have something to gain I see

3:47

that we have little to gain in the current situation and certainly

3:53

much we could lose Russia is a nuclear power

3:58

and we run the very real risk of backing them into a corner

4:04

and that bad as it is is only one of many of the options for disaster

4:11

that currently face us many people watching my exchange with dr Kegan suggested that I broaden my

4:18

understanding by reviewing the work of dr john mearsheimer of the university of chicago who offers an alternative

4:26

interpretation one that more specifically highlights the faults of the west

4:31

dr mearsheimer's remarkably prescient 2015 university of chicago lecture why is

4:38

Ukraine the west's fault available on YouTube and now watched by

4:43

30 million people an unheard of number for an academic lecture

4:48

I was concerned that mirsheimer might be a Russian apologist in some relatively simple manner although that does not

4:54

seem to be the case in a singularly lucid one-hour presentation

4:59

mirsheimer explained that nato and european union expansionism into Ukraine

5:05

the invitation proffered to Ukraine to join the eu the formal statement of the desirability of nato's extension into

5:12

Ukraine has already and will continue to pose an intolerable threat to the Russians

5:18

who view Ukraine both as an integral part of the broader Russian sphere of interest

5:25

and as a necessary buffer between the europe that has invaded Russia to terrible effect in 1812 and 1941

5:32

and that is no more trustworthy to russianize now than previously mersheimer compared the

5:40

former element of that view to the u.s monroe doctrine which makes the western hemisphere sacrosanct with regards to

5:48

say the movement of soviet missiles to cuba and the latter to the stark realities of the difference

5:55

in the importance of Ukraine to Russia crucial and to the west

6:01

irrelevant except for the transmission of Russian natural gas and any and all current exploitation for the purposes of

6:07

shallow moral posturing mirsheimer states starkly

6:13

and this explains a fair bit of putin's potential motivation

6:18

that Russia would rather see Ukraine destroyed raised to the ground

6:24

than comfortably ensconced in the western sphere of influence and mirsheimer said that

6:30

not last month or last week in response to the Ukraine incursion

6:38

but seven years ago in 2015. merchamer also claims that the Ukraine

6:43

president yanukovych deposed in 2014 in the aftermath of

6:48

widespread pro-eu protests was the clear favorite and choice of the

6:53

Russian-speaking ukrainians who overwhelmingly occupy the southeastern section of the country well
zielinski

7:00

the current president and supporter of all things western was and is supported

7:06

by the ukrainian speakers who live in the northeast add to that as well

7:12

the fact that the ukrainian-speaking supported government has placed increasingly draconian
restrictions on

7:18

the language rights of the Russian speakers in the northwest a fact all westerners balancing the

7:23

complexities of multiple languages in their own countries should be particularly sensitive to an

7:28

understanding of all this to say that Putin and the Russians

7:35

have their reasons for concern over the situation in Ukraine we could reasonably add to these two

7:41

theories of the conflict some observations about the energy front

7:48

Russia is a petro giant providing almost 15 percent of the world's supply of oil and natural gas

7:56

and is extremely dependent on that single resource whose revenues make up

8:01

almost 50 percent of the state budget and perhaps 30 percent of total gdp

8:09

almost half of the Russian fossil fuels exported make their way to europe which has allowed itself

8:16

to become dangerously dependent on such outside sources for one of its primary

8:21

necessities not least because of its faux moral stance on issues of

8:28

the environment it's not so easy for the Russians to get their oil and gas to market partly

8:34

because the baomoth country is remarkably landlocked in a practical sense they've had to build extensive

8:40

pipelines to do so the two of those that serve the european market upon which the economy of Russia

8:47

is fundamentally dependent pass through what are now other countries

8:54

this is not convenient to say the least for the Russians has caused no shortage of conflict

8:59

between them and Ukraine specifically and has certainly encouraged constant Russian interference in belarus

9:07

which is in some real sense a puppet state of its larger partner

9:12

when the soviet empire collapsed the huge oil fields around the caspian

9:17

sea suddenly found themselves in the hands of the new countries of kazakhstan azerbaijan uzbekistan and turkmenistan

9:26

after 1989 these resources attracted major attention from western energy

9:32

companies and untrammelled production from the new countries posed a threat to Russian

9:37

domination of the european energy market this has produced unending tension in the

9:43

region not least around azerbaijan which has run its own pipelines to thirsty

9:48

western markets through georgia invaded non-coincidentally by Russia in

9:54

2008 turkey and albania thus partially circumventing Russian control

10:00

over petro export the fact of this relative emerging

10:05

independence has also allowed azerbaijan to move further away from the moscow's centered sphere of influence and sets a

10:13

worrying example in the Russian view to other developing post-soviet countries in the area

10:20

add to that the fact that 80 of Russia's oil and gas exports once had to pass through Ukraine

10:27

although this problem has been remediated somewhat and the stage was and is set for trouble

10:34

this became particularly evident in 2005 with the orange revolution and the rise of victor

10:40

yushenko's overtly pro-western ukrainian regime shortly thereafter the Russians demanded

10:46

that Ukraine turn over ownership of the pipeline system traversing that country to them

10:52

this request was refused in response and during the winter the

10:58

Russians briefly turned off the taps supplying Ukraine with the petro resources upon which that country was

11:04

also acutely dependent it is also the case that Ukraine has immense and relatively recently

11:11

discovered circa 2010 petrol resources of its own

11:16

particularly around the caspian sea and in the northeast enough natural gas for example so that

11:22

it could have become a major supplier of that resource to europe and thereby pose a threat to european reliance on Russian

11:29

resources Ukraine also possesses although perhaps not after the current

11:35

war immense storage capacity for petrol resources another asset that could limit

11:41

the influence that Russia can exert over its european customers by providing a buffer against any suddenly imposed

11:48

limitation of supply in the last decade Ukraine has been actively pursuing agreements with

11:54

exxonmobil shell and chevron to develop and export their new resources

12:00

the 2014 pro-western revolution in Ukraine toppling what was then the pro-Russian

12:06

government there did little to set Russian mines at ease

12:12

the consequent invasion of crimea placed a substantial proportion of the new Ukraine petra reserves in Russian

12:19

hands the later invasion of the donbass region in the aforementioned northeast

12:26

punitively to support pro-Russian separatists there was perhaps motivated

12:31

by analogous reasons so that's three hypothetical reasons for

12:37

Russia and Ukraine first Putin the imperialist soviet-era

12:44

hitlerian thug second Russia threatened by careless and

12:49

provocative western expansionism into a country we really don't care about except when our unearned moral virtue is

12:56

challenged but which is key to Russian identity and security third

13:02

Russian concern about maintaining its primarily petrol-funded economy particularly in relation to the European

13:08

market but even three reasons are not enough to account for the fact of this war

13:14

and its emergence here and now there's a fourth precisely germane to why I entitled this

13:22

essay civil war in the west in the west no not in the Russian empire

13:28

a few weeks ago one of my viewers or readers or listeners sent me a copy of the great Russian novelist Dostoevsky's

13:34

a writer's diary Dostoevsky regarded a writer's diary

13:40

twice the length in its entirety of his longer works of fiction as his preeminent achievement it's a hybrid

13:46

work which he began publishing as a series of columns in a conservative weekly journal called the Citizen

13:55

it is the work of the accomplished journalist the great Russian author was in daring combination with the works of

14:02

fiction which he employed parable-like to buttress his intellectual and more

14:07

political points in it Dostoevsky outlined his view of

14:12

his homeland's destiny which he saw as crucially inseparable from Russia's role

14:18

in Christendom that archaic notion Russia is neither Catholic nor Protestant but Orthodox in

14:26

its religious matters and that fact remains of serious importance in my opinion

14:31

to a proper understanding of the terrible situation we in the west including Russia now find ourselves in

14:40

dostoevsky concerned himself with a philosophical or more profoundly

14:46

theological issue the crisis of meaning in the west

14:52

addressing an issue that has become of key psychological and social importance again today his

14:58

crime and punishment is a psychological investigation focusing on questions of right and wrong

15:05

or good and evil are human beings devoid of religious presuppositions

15:13

now free to make their own choices even matters of murder

15:20

in the brothers karamazov dostoevsky asks is everything permitted

15:27

now that god is dead in the devils also known as the possessed he asks

15:36

what forms might belief take and to what end when the strictures of traditional belief are burst asunder

15:43

what dread demons might take the place of the displaced yahwah

15:49

dostoevsky fervently believed in the necessity of a revival of christianity in the more psychological sense central

15:57

to the orthodox doctrine of theosis the transformative process whose aim is

16:03

individual likeness to our union with god and he believed that the Russians would

16:09

and would need to play a central role in that revival

16:14

everyone listening to or watching or reading this might be thinking what could such arcane things

16:20

possibly have to do with the practicalities of the current war but that is an indication of our

16:26

superficiality and ignorance here in the west and not with the relevance of such things

16:32

to the state of the world when alexander solzhenitsyn wrote the gulag archipelago the book that shook

16:39

the foundations of the cold war era world he suggested like dostoyevsky that it would be necessary for the

16:45

Russians to return to the path of incremental organic development that had been manifesting itself prior to the

16:52

revolutionary disruptions of the communist catastrophe that meant

16:57

a return to orthodox belief there's every sign of a revival of

17:03

christianity in Russia including a veritable storm of church building and cathedral construction

17:09

Putin himself is in principle a practicing christian

17:15

and it appears that he has been strongly influenced by such ideas

17:21

the degree to which putin's worldview and actions are shaped by his professed

17:26

christianity is a topic subject to appropriate debate but the same can be said about the views

17:32

and actions of all who adopt or claim to adopt a faith I certainly feel somewhat

17:37

more comfortable knowing that Putin regards himself however indeterminately as subordinate to something beyond

17:44

himself as the alternative is dreadful to contemplate that would be the absolute moral

17:51

presumption of someone such as stalin regardless of the depth or genuineness

17:57

of his belief however it is beyond dispute that the Russian leader frequently speaks of his country's role

18:03

as a bulwark against the moral decadence of the west and that he speaks in philosophical and

18:09

theological terms to a degree unthinkable in a western leader all of whom tend towards a condescension in

18:16

such matters that has reached its apotheosis in canada's justin trudeau new zealand's

18:23

jacinda arden and u.s vice president kamala harris he also collaborates in his thinking

18:30

with a genuine philosopher alexander dugan you can say

18:36

or think what you want about dugan as a philosopher but the fact remains that such thinking has exercised

18:43

a deep influence on Putin and Russia Putin regards the current west as decadent

18:51

to the point of absolute untrustworthiness particularly on the cultural and religious front

18:57

he is driven by economic and political necessity to trade with us and us with him so that Russia can be supplied by

19:03

much needed hard western currency and europe in particular with fossil fuel

19:09

but Putin constantly tells his people that he sees us falling far too far

19:16

under the sway of ideas very similar to those that produce the revolutionary frenzy of the communist movement

19:23

and detailed so presciently by dostoevsky in the devils and analyzed for their catastrophic consequence so

19:31

carefully by solzhenitsyn and whether he believes this or not

19:37

and I believe he does he is certainly able and willing to use the story of our degeneration

19:44

to make his people wary of us and to convince them of the necessity of

19:49

his leadership and to unite them in supporting his actions in Ukraine

19:55

and something akin to this can be said of the attraction that hungarian prime minister victor orban holds for the

20:01

hungarians and the polish president for the polls

20:06

le pen makes a similar appeal in france

20:11

and are we degenerate in a profoundly threatening manner

20:18

I think the answer to that may well be yes the idea that we are ensconced in a

20:23

culture war has become a rhetorical commonplace

20:28

how serious is that war is it serious enough to increase the

20:34

probability that Russia say will be motivated to invade and potentially incapacitate Ukraine merely

20:41

to keep the pathological west out of that country which is a key part of the historically Russian sphere of influence

20:48

to answer that question i'll turn to the analysis of a recent sequence of significant events in the

20:55

u.s with broader ramifications for the development of political thought in the west as such

21:02

when the biden administration began the process of identifying a new

21:08

supreme court justice a singular message was initially trumpeted

21:13

it is time for a black woman to take her place in the highest tribunal in the land

21:20

I thought this was a terrible strategic error speaking as someone who would

21:26

rather see the democrat sane then deluded why not first announce the search

21:33

for the most credible candidate and then report the discovery of the candidate with ethically fortuitous sex

21:41

and genetic structure why wouldn't that sequence make the most sense from within the

21:46

democrat fortress itself the fact of qualification made primary and the secondary providence that such

21:53

qualification could be provided by someone who would also simultaneously serve as a beacon to the striving

21:58

minorities and underprivileged but no sex and race were first

22:05

this begs the question does qualification even matter

22:12

now technically speaking

22:17

announcing a priory restriction of the candidacy to women and black

22:24

means the restriction of the potential pool of candidates by 50 percent the approximate relative prevalence of women

22:31

versus men and then that half by initial 87 percent as black citizens

22:37

of the us constitute 13 of the population so that is an a priori restriction of

22:44

the probability of picking the most competent candidate by 100

22:49

minus 0.5 times 0.13 equals

22:54

93.5 percent that's a tremendous restriction that

22:59

means that it is so important to pick a black woman not my words

23:05

that 18 out of 20 potentially qualified contenders will be dismissed

23:10

out of the gate and that restriction which is unwarranted except for the direst of

23:15

reasons in my estimation given the crucial importance of the position is an error

23:21

in addition to the error of putting the cart before the horse in the first place this is particularly true because the

23:27

relationship between competence and performance is non-linear an excellent candidate for a given job

23:34

is not merely slightly better than a very good candidate but often incomparably better the difference

23:41

between someone at the 99th percentile and the 99.9 percentile in terms of

23:47

competence is the difference between the best person out of a hundred and the best person

23:53

out of a thousand this is a difference so big that the consequences can be and have been world

23:59

changing a difference that is particularly important when the position in question is of crucial significance

24:06

I tweeted out something in this regard and was immediately uprated by some of my intelligent capable and admirable

24:13

democrat friends people with no small influence in washington they said you

24:19

are correct in a technical sense but you radically underestimate the degree to which such appointments have been made

24:25

for political reasons in the past reasons that also reduce the pool of

24:30

potential candidates to an arguably equal degree a priori but which weren't linked so obviously to race and sex you

24:37

are inflaming racial tensions by objecting and that's not helpful etc

24:43

furthermore the candidate in question does meet or exceed threshold for

24:48

acceptability on grounds of pure qualification and the advantage of her minority status is a genuine and

24:53

defensible mark in her favor given the historical context

24:59

now I take the people who told me this seriously and I backed off in some sense I thought

25:05

okay i'll give you all that I still think it was utterly foolish and pandering of the worst and most

25:11

unforgivable sort to announce the necessity of a black woman first

25:17

but your criticisms of previous appointments may be on point I also think that the probability that

25:23

she was the most qualified candidate is close to nil but she did seem arguably acceptably

25:29

credible given the unreliability of previous nominations and I think that most people who think

25:35

like me including those directly involved in the hearings which led to her eventual qualification felt the same

25:42

way she was certainly not subject to the same roasting over a slow fire that

25:47

characterized the hearings for the previous republican nominee kavanaugh but it remains true that sex and race

25:54

trumped qualification and a moral case was made for that decision

26:00

and that in and of itself does not provide indication of western

26:06

derangement but but

26:17

when the self-same candidate was asked directly in an interview

26:22

during the confirmation process the very straightforward question

26:27

what is a woman which granted was a gotcha question which only goes to show

26:33

the severity of our current level of derangement and so is no excuse for failure to answer

26:39

she said i'm not a biologist that is not a good answer

26:46

now she well knew that the question was a setup as did the interviewer who posed

26:52

it she knew as did the interviewer that she would be pilloried no matter how she answered it

26:58

in consequence she evaded the issue entirely but in a manner specifically designed

27:04

not to antagonize the appalling radical left and i'm even willing to grant her

27:09

the moral right to do that given that no one wants to be pilloried and that no one should be subject to mobbing merely

27:15

because they give an answer to a question the answer to which is evident to anyone who maintains an iota of

27:22

sanity and integrity but here's where i'm not willing to go

27:29

even given that as the confirmation process reached its

27:34

conclusion we were enjoined by the biden administration and the woke allies it

27:40

panders too shamefully and unceasingly to celebrate the positioning of the

27:45

desired nominee on the basis of the initial call

27:51

for her nomination that is on the basis of her sex and race

27:56

at precisely the same time that we were also enjoined to remain entirely dubious again on

28:03

moral grounds that any such category as sex even validly existed

28:13

there is a principle the principle of non-contradiction

28:19

acceptance of which in principle serves as one of the foundations

28:24

for the practice of discourse itself that principle is the assertion that it

28:30

is fundamentally unreasonable irredeemably irrational to claim

28:36

that a and not a are identical why

28:41

well because if you can claim that a thing is what it is and what it is not simultaneously

28:47

then you can claim anything whatsoever and if you can claim anything whatsoever as true

28:53

then it is impossible to talk with you you have departed from the sphere of reason

29:00

and reasonable discourse you have departed from the realm of the rational this means

29:07

that you have become deranged this means that you have become degenerate

29:13

this means that all who fail to call you on your deranged degeneration

29:20

have become rowers on the same doomed boat

29:25

this means that you and all those who do not call you out have become insane

29:32

this is against a well-established background of such insistence upon the mandatory acceptance of contradiction

29:40

in our society all sexual proclivities and desires no matter how rare dangerous or socially

29:47

disruptive are not to be merely tolerated but must be

29:52

celebrated pride month outright or else and regarded as hedonically desirable

29:59

and absolutely harmless but sex is simultaneously so dangerous

30:06

that every such interaction to take a single example between young men and women on campus

30:12

is to be regarded as deeply and patriarchally exploitative in its intrinsic nature tantamount even if

30:19

voluntary to rape as andrea dworkin and catherine mckinnon have insisted and

30:24

therefore necessarily preceded by the establishment of explicit consent formulated to a degree of precision that

30:31

would hold in court under adversarial challenge in our society furthermore

30:38

the difference between men and women is held to be purely cultural even at the level of physiology there are no

30:45

markers even genital that allow for the reliable discrimination of infant boys from girls

30:50

while whatever differences may still be held to remain are trivial biologically negligible in the impact of their

30:57

existence on destiny and easily properly and necessarily modifiable culturally

31:04

but so vitally and singly and crucially important to identity and mental health alike that misgendering is a crime

31:11

and that surgical intervention on minors is a positive good not to be questioned under punishment by law as an

31:17

intervention in the increasingly common case of childhood gender dysphoria

31:23

such contradictions do not bother the radicals and they are far more radical than they even know who

31:30

wish fervently to destabilize our society to end capitalism to destroy the

31:36

free market to bring down the oppression of the enlightenment to undermine and destroy the judeo-christian or even

31:43

abrahamic axioms that undergird our culture and to dance in the resultant flames

31:48

with glee while doing so and if you don't think these ideas are

31:53

under assault in some serious way you are blind and willfully so and heading

31:59

for a pit truly and

32:04

are not the Russians and the hungarians and the poles and the

32:10

indians to a lesser degree watching and thinking those people have gone out of their

32:17

minds and we have

32:22

to say it again clearly the culture war in the west is real

32:28

and culture is losing and Russia is part of the west

32:34

and the culture war is now truly part of why we have a

32:40

war and it's a real war and it is certainly the case that we do

32:47

not therefore have all the moral high ground for some part of the reasons that mirsheimer details and for these reasons

32:55

of insanity in fact how much of it we have at all is something rightly subject to the most

33:02

serious debate and i'm saying this as someone who also takes the advice of someone like

33:08

Frederick Kegan seriously

33:13

thus the Russians think in some combination of convenient for them

33:19

and accuracy in relationship to us on top of their imperialist ambitions and their nationalistic populism and the

33:26

potential thuggery of their leader all that taken into account those westerners are so out of their

33:33

mind possessed by the very ideas that destroyed us for a century and didn't

33:38

they that we simply cannot trust them those westerners are so out of their

33:45

mind that a devastated but neutral Ukraine

33:50

is preferable to a functional bordering state aligned with the us and europe

33:58

those westerners are so out of their mind

34:04

it will push the world to the brink of a nuclear war and potentially beyond

34:12

to keep them off our doorstep because we've been there before

34:17

and we're not going back and that is exactly what Putin tells his people

34:24

and they believe it and in some sense therefore it doesn't even matter if Putin believes it

34:29

although I believe he does along with whatever else he might believe in relationship to personal ambition and

34:34

self-aggrandizement and the willingness to aggress and the desirability of resurgent Russian empire and so the

34:41

Russians believe that they have a moral duty and that they have the highest moral duty to oppose the degenerate

34:47

ideas philosophy theology of the west

34:53

and there's something about that that is not wrong

34:59

and that is why the incursion of Russia into Ukraine is more truly

35:05

a civil war in the west I should also point out

35:11

it is not only the Russians who object to the nightmare of compassionate authoritarianism that increasingly

35:17

possesses the west all the eastern european countries whose populations groaned under the stalinist burden are

35:23

watching the resurgence of these demented ideas among their erstwhile enlightened allies with stunned

35:30

disbelief romanians estonians hungarians albanians

35:35

all those countries characterized by a traumatic wisdom all extremely unhappy

35:43

that those who should know better and who have built their economic strength and base their freedom on ideas that

35:49

promote equality of opportunity but denounce enforced equity or equality of

35:54

outcome kowtow to the resentful full moralistic opportunistic anarchic narcissists of

36:02

the radical left if our g7 leaders had one iota sense in

36:08

my opinion they would be doing nothing right now but dispensing with the too convenient identification of Putin with

36:13

hitler or stellan and focusing with single-minded intensity on determining exactly what the Russians would accept

36:20

as a minimum precondition for peace have we been paying attention to what putin's men have been saying about the

36:26

uk to take a single example a Russian tv host recently boasted

36:33

that a single ceremony missile would be sufficient to destroy britain

36:40

once and for all perhaps the declaration of Ukraine has a

36:46

neutral state for a minimum period of 20 years perhaps a new election in Ukraine subject to ratification by joint Russian

36:53

western observers perhaps a pledge on the part of the west to not offer to Ukraine any membership in nato or the eu

37:00

that is either not simultaneously offered to Russia or moving forward on terms acceptable to Russia and if not

37:07

any of these offerings and I may be dreadfully naive for reasons I do not know about such matters

37:13

and therefore wrong in my specific suggestions then something else that will bring peace

37:19

and the sooner the better the Russians are a nuclear power the Russians have a

37:24

sphere of influence the Russians have already integrated into the world economy

37:30

in a manner that cannot be compromised without devastating global consequences

37:36

and all protestations to the contrary

37:42

none of us give a damn about Ukraine and never have

37:48

remember the hallmador do you even know what it was

37:54

well for the Russians Ukraine is akin in some important sense to Russia itself

37:59

even more so than the monroe doctrine western hemisphere is the us

38:05

i'm not saying that Ukraine is part of Russia or that the ukrainians agree with the Russians

38:10

but our current concern is very self-aggrandizing and unreliable

38:17

and this is particularly true given that we in the west that opposes Russia have very much to lose in this battle we

38:23

have not yet woken up fully to what that loss will look like

38:30

allow me therefore to prognosticate both pessimistically and worse

38:37

realistically I believe that all of the following consequences

38:43

are already inevitable first skyrocketing energy prices I firmly

38:50

expect oil prices to hit 300 a barrel or worse in the upcoming year or two perhaps I am wrong

38:57

in such a prognostication but the Russians still have control of some very important taps

39:03

and will be hard-pressed not to employ that strategic advantage as their position in Ukraine and on the world

39:08

stage deteriorates as it inevitably must these higher energy prices will of

39:16

course hurt the world's poor and developing countries hardest as well as those who in the west must

39:22

rely on low wages or fixed incomes the idiot environmental policies that we

39:28

insist on pursuing not least in justin trudeau's increasingly dysfunctional canada are

39:35

exacerbating this problem unforgivably and it has become obvious in countries

39:40

such as the uk and germany that the hypothetically compassionate and working class positive green types

39:47

and their ilk are perfectly willing to sacrifice today's actual poor to the

39:54

hypothetically thriving poor of their imaginary future utopia

40:01

second severe food shortages or even famine

40:07

for a minimum of 150 million people and substantial pressure on the price of

40:13

basic necessities even in the developed countries as for example Ukraine alone

40:19

produces 20 percent of the world's high-grade wheat and will soon be unable to ship that food

40:25

or to store what will be this year's much diminished crop

40:31

these shortages and worse will hit hard as early as the fall of 2022.

40:38

add to this problem a looming scarcity of fertilizer

40:43

30 percent produced by Ukraine and Russia which will affect harvests and prices worldwide

40:50

and we have the makings of a humanitarian disaster on a scale not experienced

40:55

since the 1960s third

41:01

mass migration the country's most affected by the aforementioned food shortage

41:07

will be precisely those north african and middle eastern nations from which the last mass migration that so stressed

41:14

europe to say nothing of the immigrants themselves expect immense mass movements of

41:21

desperate people by november of 2022 and all the exacerbation

41:27

of religious and nationalist tension and internal polarization along political

41:32

fracture lines that accompanies a sudden and uncontrollable influx of people

41:39

fourth and most immediately if the build-up of nato forces continues and they are in

41:46

fact then moved into battle position a real likelihood of the use of tactical

41:51

nuclear weapons on the Russian side to deal with that threat three hundred thousand have been very

41:58

recently put on high readiness prepared for immediate deployment as opposed to the 40 000 currently available for rapid

42:05

reaction all this appears to be based on the assumption that the Russians will back down

42:11

if threatened enough this didn't work for the germans with regards to britain in the days of the

42:18

blitz why would we underestimate the determination of the Russians they

42:24

have seen hardships that those of us in the west can thankfully not even imagine we will not cow them into submission

42:32

as they will not prove willing to lose and it's not as though the economic

42:37

sanctions have been working or have been without major collateral damage on a scale yet to be seen the ruble is doing

42:44

just fine and oil prices are not finished escalating all this is enabling

42:49

Putin to establish firm trading partners for his valuable commodities outside the direct western sphere of influence and

42:56

the other opec partners are not going to just turn on the taps which are already putting forth at full

43:02

volume and the west will have neither the will nor the ability to scale up domestic energy production given our

43:08

current state of ideological paralysis we cannot do

43:14

without the Russians on our side here in the rest of the western world

43:19

the chinese communists loom too remember them we haven't even discussed

43:24

this side of the problem and the ccp system is antithetical to ours in every

43:31

manner despite the admiration expressed for this system by some of the most short-sighted of the

43:37

west's leaders that's you again canadian prime minister justin trudeau

43:42

and the chinese are subtle and patient in a manner we no longer understand and we are shallow and foolish and

43:49

short-sighted and narcissistic and ungrateful our wealth

43:55

our unearned birthright to a great degree deludes us into believing in our competence and moral superiority

44:02

but the fact that you're born into wealth does not indicate that you are able upright and responsible

44:09

I cannot see how we can defeat the Russians in any real sense

44:16

because they will not allow themselves to lose because the consequences even of an

44:22

overwhelming military victory for our side will be internationally disastrous

44:28

and finally because the quarrel that lies at one part of the bottom of this war will not disappear at all and may

44:34

even worsen if the Russians somehow lose with regard to that final point the war

44:39

of ideas that has given rise to the current real war will continue its destructive and nihilistic progress even

44:46

if the Russians capitulate and agree to the re-establishment of the pre-invasion boundaries

44:51

it is not obvious that well that war of ideas continues that the Russians will even allow a prosperous Ukraine allied

44:58

more closely with the west on their border and it's wishful thinking to imagine that this war will end with the

45:04

ignominious departure of a Putin in disgrace not only is he popular

45:10

but he is arguably much less terrible than almost any leader that has preceded him for a century in Russia that may be

45:18

damning with faint praise but it's something necessary to understand in relationship to the

45:24

promulgation of any naive and foolish optimism this is a war that cannot be run in the

45:30

most fundamental sense by the mere defeat of Russia the civil war in the west can only be

45:36

won on the intellectual or even the spiritual front and the victory will be defeat of the radical ideas of marxist

45:43

inheritance that are currently destabilizing our societies Russia and Ukraine included

45:50

it is the job of classic liberals small c conservatives and more

45:55

importantly adherence to the abrahamic traditions to bring about that defeat in the realm of ideas

46:02

where the true battles most truly rage in the meantime instead

46:08

we fight our petty battles in the west worrying about our privilege while enjoying it fully

46:14

obsessing about the woke triumvirate of diversity inclusivity and equity

46:19

wallowing in the immature narcissism of our solipsistic identity debates whiling

46:25

the time away as something truly terrible comes for us down the pipes

46:30

we are at great risk of destabilizing the amazing interdependent world

46:35

prosperity that is so unlikely was so difficult to attain and which we have enjoyed for only a few short decades and

46:43

we are taking that risk so blindly and willfully so so stupidly so childishly

46:50

and so pridefully the hunger of millions will soon be upon us and that is not all

46:58

can we not get our priorities right and step back from that precipice

47:03

with the proper vision and aim all could have all that is needed

47:09

perhaps even all that is wanted instead we could have hell

47:16

just as we've had it before do we really need to go there again

47:24

I might also point out if all of this has not been enough

47:29

that this war may be in some real sense another one of the myriad unintended

47:35

consequences of the idiot invasive and authoritarian covid lockdown

47:41

when was the last time that a western leader spent some time face to face

47:46

with Putin not by zoom not by skype

47:52

in the same room breathing the same air communicating directly with all available verbal and

48:00

crucially important nonverbal channels fully functioning sharing a meal or an anecdote or a drink

48:07

engaging in all of those social interactions of inarticulable complexity

48:13

aimed at establishing a relationship overcoming inevitable distrust at a personal level

48:20

has it been several years in any real sense has that simply been too long

48:28

will this be another severe consequence of our rush to assume that we can virtualize the

48:33

real without unforeseen loss perhaps I might end this litany of

48:40

warnings and woe with a story and not one that I think

48:47

will improve anyone's mood as has become somewhat widely known

48:54

Putin had an encounter with an angry and desperate rodent when he was young

49:00

quote there on that stair landing I got a quick and lasting lesson in the meaning of the word

49:06

cornered there were hordes of rats in the front entryway my friends and I used to chase

49:12

them around with sticks once I spotted a huge rat and pursued it down the hall until I drove it

49:18

into a corner it had nowhere to run suddenly it lashed around

49:26

and threw itself at me I was surprised and frightened now the

49:31

rat was chasing me it jumped across the landing and down the stairs luckily I was a little faster

49:37

and I managed to slam the door on its nose

49:43

now Putin is not a rat and we are not children tormenting rats

49:50

with sticks or at least we shouldn't be

49:55

I spoke recently with the former albanian minister of foreign affairs and he told me that there are western leaders who hold

50:02

the view that Russia's president needs to be humiliated so that he will learn his lesson

50:08

here's a lesson from the benighted vengeful versailles treaty designed to humiliate and

50:15

the germans in the aftermath of the brutalities of world war one

50:23

don't plant the seeds that will blossom into the next war

50:28

Putin will not be around in 10 years or so but Russia

50:34

will remain this isn't or shouldn't be personal

50:40

although the relationships that might bring peace need to be and let's not corner the explosive bear that is Russia

50:48

no mere contemptible rat or aim at a high school like humiliation of its leader and therefore its people
no

50:54

matter how misguided we may believe they presently are we need to find a way out of this awful mess
this terrible tar

51:01

baby before it engulfs us all and it needs to be the top priority of those who purport to lead and guide us

51:08

here in the west